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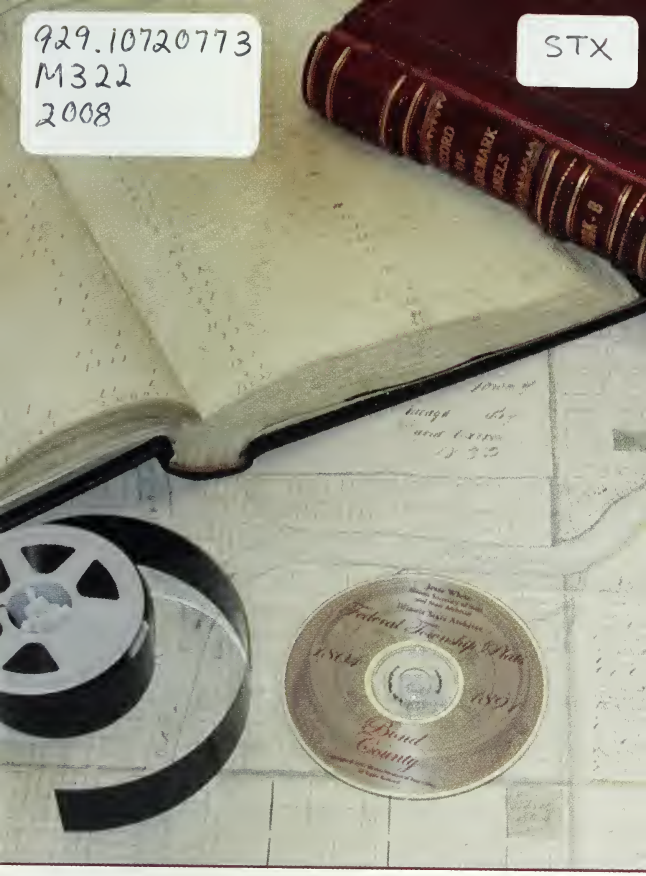

MAPPING YOUR PAST

Genealogy at the Illinois State Archives

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Census records

The Archives has both state and federal census records spanning more than 100 years.

1810-1860: Indexes are available covering state and decennial federal census records. The only reasonably complete state census for this period, 1855, has only names of heads of households; other family entries are simple tallies. This is true for all pre-1850 federal censuses.

1865: Because this final state census is only partially indexed, Archives staff also needs county and township names when using it. Unindexed schedules of cities cannot be searched by staff. This census lists only names of heads of households.

1870: A published index, providing the names of heads of households, is available.

1880: The index for this census lists only households with children under age 11. The index is searchable by names of heads of households. If county and township names are provided, staff can search those with populations of less than 2,500. No city searches.

1890: The federal census was lost in a Washington, D.C., fire in 1921.

1900, 1910, 1920: Indexes are searchable by names of heads of households. An index to each census is available.

1930: This unindexed census is available on microfilm for patrons to use. It cannot be searched by Archives staff.

The Archives also has the special federal decennial censuses for the period of 1850-1880. Two are profession-specific: agriculture (1850-1880) and industry (1850-1870). The 1880 census also profiles persons with disabilities as well as dependents and delinquents.

Births, deaths & marriages

Births and deaths were first recorded with county clerks in 1877. The Department of Public Health (605 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62702; 217-782-6553) also maintains such records after 1916. Illinois death certificates for 1916-1947 are available at the Archives on microfilm. An index to these death certificates is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

The Archives also has complete federal mortality schedules for 1850, 1860 and 1880. For 1870, federal mortality schedules are available only for

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those counties alphabetically listed after Kankakee County. In all four mortality schedules, the records reflect only those deaths occurring during the year before enumeration.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index (pre-1818-1900), created in cooperation with the Illinois State Genealogical Society, is available online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Wars of old

The Archives has name indexes for Illinois units serving during the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Civil War and Spanish-American War. Federal World War I draft registration records also are available. Name indexes may be searched through the Archives' card catalog or through online databases at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Post-war information on veterans and spouses may be found in the resident files of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home (1887-1967) and the Illinois Soldiers' Widows' Home (1896-1960). Some information restrictions apply.

Also available are microfilm records of some pension information from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; records from the National Home in Danville (1898-1934); and the publication, *Honor Roll of Veterans Buried in Illinois.*

Records of the land

Only the first purchaser of land from the federal or state government is included in the Archives' indexed records; all subsequent transactions are kept with the county recorder. Archives records include the purchaser's name and residence, the date the land was purchased and its legal description. Information such as the buyer's former residence are not indicated.

Local and county resources

Archives staff can search indexes of specific county histories and provide copies of biographical sketches. A wealth of genealogical information also is available through the Illinois Regional Archives Depository system (IRAD). Local records are housed in seven depositories located at state universities throughout Illinois. IRAD staff will perform a limited amount of research upon request.

For more information, contact:
IRAD
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756
217-785-1266
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Interlibrary loan

Several state and federal censuses of Illinois are available through interlibrary loan at the Illinois State Library. War indexes and a census records index for 1810-1855 also are available. Your local librarian must direct this request to the Illinois State Library.

The Illinois State Archives houses the official memories of served in government documents, land titles, militia roll bo graph reveals something unique about past life in Illinois a

As State Archivist, I encourage you to take advantage of th mation at the State Archives. By learning about family herit we grow not only in understanding but also in appreciation and citizens of Illinois.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Archivist

Drop us a line

Archives staff will do research based on mail requests. Illinois residents are charged only for photocopying. Out-of-state residents also are charged a $10 out-of-state fee for research. Please follow these guidelines:

- Request no more than two specific names or items per mailing.
- When requesting a name search, try to provide:
  (1) Individual's complete name, age and birthplace, as well as that of the spouse and children if possible.
  (2) County and township names.
  (3) Name of record to be searched and its date span.
- Wait until you receive a response to your request before submitting additional requests.

great state. More than 250 years of history are pre-
and historic photographs. Each document and photo-
nay be of help in your genealogical research.

emendous wealth of infor-
and the history of our state,
who we are as individuals

Our doors are open

When extensive research is involved, many genealogists find it's best done in person at the Illinois State Archives. The reference staff is available to help with your research. The Archives is located just south of the State Capitol and is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., and Sat., 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (except holiday weekends).

For more information

Illinois State Archives
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-4682 • 217-524-3930 (fax)
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

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Other resources

Genealogy researchers also may find the following resources helpful:

- *The Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois* lists all available state record series. Contact your local library, or you may purchase a copy from the Archives for $20. *A Summary Guide to Local Governmental Records in the Illinois Regional Archives* also is available through your local library, or it may be purchased from the State Archives for $6. Both publications are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.
- Many state institutions have records stored in the Archives, although to be accessed, at least 75 years must have lapsed since the record was first established. Mental health records are permanently closed. Holdings of state prison records and related parole files also contain genealogical information.

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WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

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